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influence of cultural contact,—the fusion of a realistic style practised by one tribe with the geometrical style of another (II, pp. 374–383). Finally, Dr Rivers's scheme itself, however skeptical we may remain as to its specific implications, cannot fail to stimulate students to undertake corresponding syntheses for other areas. Taken all in all, *The History of Melanesian Society* must be reckoned one of the most noteworthy ethnological contributions of the last decade.

ROBERT H. LOWIE

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropologische Untersuchungen über die Niasser. J. B. von Kleiweg de Zwaan. Martinus Nijoff, The Hague, 1914. VII, 282 pages, 1 map, 118 figures, 8 diagrams and 26 tables of measurements.

The present monograph forms the second volume of an extended work on the results of a trip of exploration to the Island of Nias, near the western coast of Sumatra, undertaken by the author in 1910. The first volume treats of "Die Heilkunde der Niasser," and Volume III is entitled "Cranimetrische Untersuchungen bei den Niassern." The second volume, containing the anthropological observations on the tribes of Nias, is marked by thoroughness and care and can justly be proclaimed a model of its kind.

The Niassers have not been investigated before from a purely anthropological standpoint. The existing data in the way of general description and scientific observation pertaining to the population of Nias are put down by the author in his first three chapters, as well as relevant material collected by himself. This section deals with the native legends as to the descent of the people; with the language, etc.; the geological conditions of the Island of Nias; the general physical characteristics of the Niassers, as well as of the other inhabitants of the Indian Archipelago and Continent. A close relationship of the Niassers to the aboriginal population of the Indian archipelago can with all probability be derived from the different statements.

In order to get as clear as possible a survey of the population of the different parts of the island, the author has made his investigations in the four principal regions corresponding to the four points of the compass. First came the people of the several coastal districts, whence the interior ones were visited. In this way a good many different tribes were traced, of which even the neighboring ones live sharply separated in most of the cases. The northern tribes are said to have immigrated from the south, a belief corroborating the legend of the first settlements in that

part of Nias. Kleiweg has measured 1298 male individuals; unfortunately females, for reasons of decorum, had to be neglected. Only heathen and converted Christians were considered in order to deal with the probably purest blood, Mohammedans being excluded on account of probable Malay crossing.

Chapters IV-XVIII (p. 56-247) contain the author's own careful investigations dealing with the proportions of the body in general; dactyloscopic records; the color of the eyes and hair, and the form of the hair; the form of the head and face; measurements of the body and its parts; measurements of the head and the indices (very detailed); differences between the Southern tribes of Nias and those of other regions; a comparison with the Minangkabau-Malays of the same author; facial casts; strength of the hand; acuity of vision; frequency of pulse; peculiarities of character. He followed the craniometric instructions of Rudolf Martin, also using his instrumentarium, as well as von Luschan's table for skin color, Martin's table for eye color, Collin's dynamometer, and Landolt's optotypes.

The men of Nias are of rather short stature and possess skeletal and muscular systems of moderate or slight development. The coloring of the chest was found almost everywhere lighter than that of the back. It oscillated between nos. 15 and 26 of von Luschan's table. Blue birth-marks (*Mongolenflecke*) occur.

The proportion of loops and whorls of the *Hautleisten-systems* on corresponding as well as on different fingers shows in many respects striking resemblances with Minangkabau—Malays and Europeans. Kleiweg for that reason doubts the diagnostic value of dactyloscopy for anthropological purposes. The coloring of the eyes lies between nos. 2 and 3 of Martin's table, being characterized by a shading of dark brown. A lighter coloring of the eyes as a rule does not coincide with a lighter coloring of the skin. The color of the hair was, in a preponderating number of cases, brownish-black or blackish-brown, its form slightly wavy and in cross-section generally oval. Into ethnological observations as to the manner of wearing the hair, I cannot enter here. In most of the Niassers the forehead and skull are well-arched; faces of a lower and broader type are in the majority. About 50 per cent. of the individuals examined possessed the Mongolian eyelid; as a rule the slit of the eyelid passed laterally upwards. The root of the nose lies rather deep; a broad nasal ridge and thick puffed-up wings are most common. The ridge of the nose is generally straight (64, *i. e.*, 89 per cent.), the rest might be described as concave or convex; the latter type being generally

high and narrow. Prognathism is rather common and is found to a stronger degree in a coarser type of faces. The lobe of the ear (left) was in 97 cases (15 per cent.), entirely joined to the skin of the face, a sign, according to the author, of intellectual inferiority but not of degeneration. The range of variation of the facial characteristics admitted of a separation into a coarser and clumsier and a finer and narrower type, an intermediate one being also recognized. An accurate description of these types is found on page 114 ff. The average height of the body is 154.73 cm., with a range in the majority of the Niassers between 152 and 158 cm.; the total range of variation being from 135-171 cm. The Niassers should not be classified as Pygmies, because their medium height is above 150 cm. Those below this figure the author also does not wish to have regarded as Pygmies, but as a variety of the taller natives. It is a fact, though, that the Niassers belong to the smallest tribes of the Indian Archipelago. The finger-reach of 161.32 cm. points to rather short arms in proportion to the entire bodily height. Direct and relative measurements are quoted for the extremities as well as their subdivisions, the relative ones being compared with those of other civilized and primitive peoples. For several characteristics an intermediate position was determined (for instance as to the relative length of the arms), for some others (*e. g.*, the relative length of the leg or rump) a decided inclination towards primitive peoples was noted. Considering the footprints, one is almost tempted to speak of a tendency toward splay-footedness. In these footprints the lateral margin and the metatarsus are generally quite broad, while the heels on the contrary were small. A striking feature consists in the fan-like spreading of the toes. The average length of the head mounted to 181 mm. (155-201 mm.) the average breadth was 146.1 (120-166 mm.), yielding a cephalic index of 80.72 (67-102). In order to get as accurate a record as possible of this index in consideration of its absolute components (length and breadth), the author divided his heads into small ones, such of medium size, and large ones, in correspondence with the advice given by von Török. It was demonstrated by this process, that the combinations of medium broad, medium long, and broad, medium-long occur most frequently (93.30 per cent.) among the Niassers. Of 1297 heads there are 137 (10.5 per cent.) dolichocephals; 494 (38.07 per cent.) mesocephals; and 666 (51.43 per cent.) brachycephals. These subdivisions of the index are quoted separately also for the different tribes. The form of the face is of interest mostly because of its tapering upwards. This condition is expressed by proper indices. The face is on the average mesoprosopic

(88.56 per cent.), the nose mesorrhin (70.13 per cent.). The comparison between the height of the body and the circumference of the head showed, that the Niassers possess, as a rule, with a greater bodily height (at least up to 160 cm.) a larger circumference of the head. In Chapter XII of his book, Kleiweg attempted a differentiation of his material into types, comparing 20 individuals with either the greatest or the smallest cephalic index, or the index of the nose, or the morphological index of the face, or the greatest or smallest stature, in each case with the remaining data of these four characteristics. The results permitted the conclusion that the Niassers do not form a homogeneous race, their physical characters showing different racial elements. In this way the occurrence of a long, narrow nose in the brachycephals and broad, short nose in the dolichocephals is accounted for. The different observations permitted the specialization of the Southern Niassers, whose bodily height and better-nourished physique are in all probability connected with better and more favorable conditions of life in their specific locality. They also differ in some other characteristics from the rest of the population. A contrasting of Niassers of the South with those of other parts of the island, and with Minangkabau-Malays is carried through by the author in chapter XIII, where we also find the principal results of his investigations as such. The author succeeded on his trip in taking 131 facial casts, 57 of which are from Niassers; all of these are reproduced in phototype. They are a very good means for recognizing the different types described by the investigator. An accompanying list contains names, tribal affiliation, and definite habitat of the people whose casts were taken. A complete list of literature as well as an alphabetical index conclude the text which is supplied with 118 illustrations and 8 diagrams. A model of conscientious work is represented also in 26 comprehensive tables of measurements, giving 48 measurements for every one of 1298 individuals. Precisely these numbers are of permanent value for later monographs on similar or like subjects. The selection of measurements is a very appropriate one. One may properly thank the author for so much painstaking and discriminating work as is manifested in his accumulation of measurement records. A map of the Island of Nias concludes the meritorious second volume of the entire work.

BRUNO OETTEKING

SOME NEW PUBLICATIONS

Boas, Franz. *Kultur und Rasse*. Leipzig: Veit & Co., 1914. Pp. VIII, 256. 1 diagram.